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County Orders Dump Closed, Faces Possible Legal Action

By TRAVIS BAKER
Sun County Writer

Ames Trash Dump, which holds the contract for disposal of waste from Puget Sound Naval Shipyard, was ordered yesterday to close down until it has complied with requirements of the Kitsap County Health Department.

The county commissioners gave the order after hearing County Sanitarian Joe Weigel tell them the dump "hasn't complied at all with what we've asked them to do."

A considerable number of

Sunnyslope residents who own property adjacent to the dump were also on hand to renew complaints about the burning problem there.

The action by the commissioners was unanimous, with Bill Mahan taking the lead and moving that no dump permit be issued to Ames' operators, to be followed by prosecution by the county if the dump continues to operate without the permit.

Kenneth Crawford and Mel Marler, who co-own the dump, don't intend to make it easy for

the county, though, and were collecting their legal forces this morning in preparation for a court battle.

Crawford said Bremerton lawyer Curtis Coons has been retained and a Seattle lawyer has also been contacted. "We'll see this all the way into the courts in Olympia if we have to," Marler told The Sun.

The next step will be up to the county. Crawford said he will wait for the county to bring charges of operating a dump without a license, then launch a legal fight on that point.

The offense is a misdemeanor, punishable by a \$250 fine or 90 days in jail for each day the violation continues.

Weigel had sent the dump operators a letter, listing 11 points that had to be corrected before the dump permit would be issued. Yesterday he read a letter he had received back, telling what the dump owners were doing to comply.

After commenting briefly on his evaluation of the progress on each of the 11 points, Weigel said overall he found the dump to be far from compliance.

The commissioners also heard testimony from six Sunnyslope residents, complaining of the eye irritating smoke conditions that accompanied a fire at the dump last week.

The dump owners reported it to the commissioners as an accidental fire, but it burned for four days, Mahan said, and the commissioners weren't convinced an honest effort was made to put it out.

They had earlier ordered an end to all burning at the dump and the operators were reported to have said they would comply, but accidental fires might erupt.

One of the six Sunnyslope residents, Don Barnes, Port Orchard Rte. 4, Box 385, a member of the Sunnyslope Fire Department, said no help was asked by the dump owners during the four-day duration of the fire last week.

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